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Weekly Crop & Weather Roundup



Week Ending July 23, 2006

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This report can be found on the Internet at

http://www.nass.usda.gov/Statistics_by_State/Pennsylvania/Publications/Crop_Progress_and_Condition/index.asp

Good Week for Field Work: Last week, the extreme hot and humid weather allowed crops to thrive, although it provided an uncomfortable work environment for farmers. Throughout parts of the week, varying regions of the state had short and sporadic thunderstorms, keeping the crops from dehydrating. The majority of Pennsylvania's crop conditions have improved last week, with the exception of the fruit crops. Farmers took advantage of the weather to finish most of the wheat and barley harvest, and continued oat harvesting. Several farmers also reported that conditions were ideal to get straw dried and baled. In the southern part of the state, apple harvesting has begun, and producers are also picking plums and apricots. Principal farm activities included baling hay and straw; repairing equipment; harvesting wheat, barley, oats, and peaches; picking sweet corn; and spreading manure.

PA Topsoil Moisture for Week Ending July 23, 2006

Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
0	1	77	22

Crops: The corn towers at 77 inches, 13 inches above the 5-year average. Farmers continue to give reports of corn height varying drastically between fields, depending on when the corn was planted. Sixty-two percent of the corn has tasseled, which is 18 percent ahead of normal. In addition, 6 percent of the corn entered the dough stage last week. This figure is the same as last year and 1 percent behind normal. Corn condition has seen an improvement from the past several weeks, as 85 percent of the crop is rated in good or excellent condition. Similar to corn, the soybean condition has also improved slightly from the previous week. Eighty-four percent of the crop is in good or excellent condition. Wheat harvest is about wrapped up for the year, as 95 percent of the crop has been reaped. The wheat harvest finished about two weeks earlier this year than it did last year. In comparison, barley harvesting is also about completed, as 96 percent of the crop is harvested, which is within 2 percent of both last year's figure and the 5-year average. The sun helped keep the oats turning yellow last week. Eighty-two percent of the crop is yellow, 16 percent ahead of the 5-year average. Thirty-nine percent of the crop is ripe, and 21 percent of the oats are harvested. All of the oat stages are the same or ahead of the 5-year averages. Oat condition continues to look good, as eighty-five percent of the crop is reported to be in good or excellent condition. Hopefully, the condition will remain good throughout harvesting. Farmers made 20 percent of their second cutting alfalfa last week, so 78 percent of this cutting is now complete. However, not much progress was made with third cutting as only 9 percent of the hay has been made. This number is half of the 5-year average. As for timothy/clover hay, 94 percent of the first cutting and 27 percent of the second cutting has been made. Both cuttings are behind last year's figures, but ahead of the 5-year averages. Timothy/clover stand condition has improved from the previous week. Eighty-one percent of the timothy is in either good or excellent condition. The quality of hay made has slightly improved from the previous week as

well, with last week's conditions reported as 1 percent very poor, 8 percent poor, 31 percent fair, 51 percent good, and 9 percent excellent.

Peach progress is moving along, but lagging the normal pace. Currently, 18 percent of the peaches have been harvested. Producers continue to see that peach condition is not quite as good as expected. Seventy-seven percent of the peaches are in good or excellent condition, 20 percent are fair, and 3 percent are rated as poor. Apple harvesting began last week. Seven percent of the apples have been picked, 3 percent ahead of both last year's figure and the 5-year average. Apple condition has also declined, as 94 percent of the apples are in either good or excellent condition.

Livestock: Pasture condition has declined this week, as it has the past several weeks. Farmers are concerned with wet spots and ruts in pastures. Pasture condition was reported as the following: 3 percent very poor, 8 percent poor, 27 percent fair, 55 percent good, and 7 percent excellent.

U.S. as of July 18, 2006: Temperatures averaged above normal nearly nationwide, with readings as much as 6 to 9 degrees Fahrenheit above normal across the northern Great Plains. Moderate to heavy precipitation fell in a band from the southern and central Great Plains across most of the Corn Belt into the Ohio River Valley and Northeast. Soil moisture levels and crop conditions generally improved in these areas. Corn: Silking advanced to 51 percent, 5 percentage points ahead of last year and 13 points ahead of normal. Across the Corn Belt, the crop entered the stage rapidly. Silking was at or ahead of the normal pace in all states except Indiana. Meanwhile, 6 percent of the acreage was at or beyond the dough stage, the same as last year and the 5-year average. However, doughing had not yet begun across the northern and western Corn Belt and the northern Great Plains. Soybeans: Sixty percent of the acreage was blooming or beyond, compared with 61 percent last year and 48 percent for the 5-year average. Blooming advanced rapidly in the northern and central Great Plains under hot conditions. Progress was ahead of normal in all states, except Indiana and Michigan. Sixteen percent of the crop was setting pods or beyond, 1 point ahead of last year and 5 points ahead of normal. Pod setting was underway in all states. Winter Wheat: Growers had harvested 80 percent of their acreage, 4 points ahead of last year and 7 points ahead of normal. Ohio producers reaped 60 percent and Pennsylvania producers reaped 30 percent of their crop during the week despite persistent rainfall. Harvest was ahead of normal in most states. Small Grains: Barley heading, at 86 percent, was 1 point behind last year but 1 point ahead of normal. Progress was behind normal in the Pacific Northwest due to planting delays early in the season, while other growing areas were ahead of normal. Oat growers had harvested 18 percent of their acreage, compared with 17 percent last year and 14 percent for the 5-year average. Harvest was nearly complete in the southern states, but was less than 20 percent complete in the northern states.

Weather Data For Week Ending July 23, 2006

Station	Last Week Weather Summary						April 1 - July 23, 2006					
	Temperature				Precipitation		Precipitation			GDD Base 50F		Base 40F
	High	Low	Average	DFN	Total	Days	Total	DFN	Days	Total	DFN	Total
Northwest												
Erie	92	59	76	5	0.45	2	11.81	-1.51	50	1,410	162	2,421
Franklin	93	59	74	4	2.53	3	19.09	3.45	53	1,330	137	2,382
Meadville	88	58	74	6	1.54	3	14.75	-0.17	50	1,318	232	2,343
Mercer	91	59	74	5	1.01	3	20.37	5.42	54	1,256	71	2,296
Springboro	90	55	72	1	0.90	3	19.35	6.07	54	1,165	-94	2,153
Warren	91	58	73	4	1.81	2	19.97	4.46	52	1,225	66	2,242
North Central												
Bradford Region	87	50	70	6	1.01	3	15.26	-0.48	54	988	154	1,944
Emporium	91	60	74	7	2.35	3	20.48	4.48	55	1,263	325	2,317
Kane	90	53	70	5	1.19	2	16.15	0.35	46	885	61	1,833
Laporte	86	57	73	3	2.02	3	22.25	7.44	59	1,099	-94	2,096
Lock Haven	93	64	78	8	0.64	3	17.06	2.68	50	1,475	202	2,560
Port Allegany	90	55	72	6	1.34	2	14.83	-0.36	48	1,059	121	2,040
Renovo	92	58	74	3	1.48	3	16.91	2.53	56	1,372	99	2,450
Ridgway	90	58	72	6	2.79	2	18.72	2.72	55	1,064	126	2,071
Stevenson Dam	93	60	75	9	1.58	3	14.95	-1.05	49	1,338	400	2,410
Towanda	95	60	76	7	1.75	2	15.20	2.93	51	1,371	167	2,410
Wellsboro	89	56	72	6	1.54	3	14.92	2.53	51	1,056	177	2,036
Williamsport	94	66	79	7	1.45	1	15.35	0.92	49	1,593	177	2,678
Northeast												
Hawley	92	61	75	7	2.85	4	24.66	10.92	43	1,203	196	2,205
Wilkes-Barre/Sc	91	63	76	5	1.67	4	17.19	3.71	49	1,481	137	2,544
Susquehanna	92	60	75	8	3.27	3	24.89	10.19	58	1,246	279	2,263
West Central												
Butler	92	59	75	5	1.28	3	17.20	2.48	52	1,297	55	2,360
New Castle	94	61	76	6	2.27	2	18.97	5.35	50	1,452	201	2,526
Slippery Rock	92	61	76	8	1.53	3	20.59	6.16	58	1,352	227	2,415
Central												
Altoona/Blair	91	60	75	4	2.19	3	13.77	0.28	47	1,414	65	2,493
DuBois	87	57	73	4	0.79	3	17.14	2.25	59	1,220	61	2,250
Lewistown	95	64	79	6	0.96	1	16.54	2.05	46	1,559	77	2,652
Middletown	95	68	81	6	0.54	2	17.65	3.59	41	1,872	192	2,982
Prince Gallitzi	90	58	75	7	0.90	2	17.03	-0.03	48	1,141	81	2,169
Selinsgrove	97	66	79	7	1.60	2	19.53	5.06	48	1,528	147	2,613
State College	92	63	78	7	0.54	3	12.73	-0.59	46	1,522	191	2,612
East Central												
Allentown-Bethel	94	65	79	6	3.13	3	21.29	6.80	49	1,691	158	2,785
Lehighton	91	64	78	5	0.50	2	20.73	6.14	55	1,513	44	2,588
Matamoras	94	64	76	5	1.72	3	18.41	3.08	53	1,319	-7	2,354
Mt_Pocono	90	59	74	9	2.65	4	23.73	7.73	57	1,179	305	2,188
Southwest												
Pittsburgh/Alle	91	61	77	6	0.18	2	13.80	-0.37	51	1,592	236	2,691
Derry	91	59	76	6	1.35	3	18.15	3.67	49	1,326	65	2,393
Myersdale	88	56	72	2	2.76	5	17.68	1.65	57	968	-258	1,965
Mount Pleasant	91	61	75	7	0.48	2	15.75	-0.52	50	1,300	188	2,362
Pittsburgh Intl	91	61	77	5	0.92	2	14.02	0.74	48	1,533	108	2,620
Connellsville	93	63	78	6	1.31	2	16.52	0.86	60	1,517	61	2,603
Waynesburg	92	60	76	6	1.87	2	13.84	-0.59	48	1,369	59	2,449
South Central												
Biglerville	95	65	79	5	0.95	3	19.05	6.14	49	1,684	30	2,791
Everett	87	59	73	2	0.55	3	14.50	1.54	52	1,099	-220	2,176
Hanover	95	65	79	4	0.20	1	15.11	2.20	46	1,676	22	2,777
Harrisburg_AP	96	68	81	5	0.22	1	16.75	2.69	46	1,821	134	2,931
South Mountain	89	62	75	4	0.82	4	22.55	9.06	51	1,297	-45	2,364
York	93	64	78	4	0.06	1	12.83	-1.50	46	1,658	11	2,753
Southeast												
Green Lane	95	67	80	6	1.13	3	23.13	8.95	48	1,715	259	2,813
Hamburg	96	66	80	8	1.30	3	21.08	4.05	54	1,756	438	2,852
West_Chester	96	66	80	5	0.67	2	19.08	3.15	42	1,604	-30	2,696
Lancaster	92	66	79	6	1.56	3	23.37	8.59	50	1,749	215	2,853
Neshaminy Falls	96	66	79	6	1.55	3	20.14	3.66	45	1,616	88	2,716
New Holland	96	65	80	7	1.55	3	16.67	1.89	49	1,762	228	2,862
Philadelphia	98	70	83	6	1.33	3	17.27	2.96	39	2,061	287	3,188
Philadelphia NE	98	69	82	6	1.14	3	17.98	3.67	45	2,041	267	3,163
Reading	94	67	80	7	1.20	3	18.34	2.63	45	1,808	308	2,909
Valley Forge Na	98	65	81	5	1.32	3	21.84	7.00	46	1,754	22	2,856
Willow Grove	95	67	80	7	0.37	1	16.01	-0.47	41	1,843	315	2,955

DFN = Departure from normal (using 1961-90 normals period).

Precipitation (rainfall or melted snow or ice) and pan evaporation in inches.

Precipitation days = days with precipitation of .01 inch or more.

Air temperatures in degrees fahrenheit.

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Internet Reporters' Comments, By County:

Reporters are from Extension Service (Ext), Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), Farm Service Agency (FSA), Conservation District (CD), farmers, commodity specialists, or other knowledgeable individuals.

ADAMS COUNTY, Judy A. Behney (FSA) - - Adams County received some rain in parts of the county this week but not all of the county. Tuesday afternoon/evening heavy winds, rain, and lightning storms went through the York Springs area, where the area received 1½" of rainfall. Other parts of the county only got a tenth, or none at all. All days were hot and humid with some days in high 90's.

Corn continues to grow with some being 7 feet tall or taller. The crop is in tassel and is developing ears on stalks. There are some corn fields that never got a good start and are looking bad with different germinations in the field making all different heights of corn. Soybeans continue to grow and most double-cropping after wheat and barley has now been completed. Some green beans are still being planted in the county. Hay continues to be made. Most of the wheat in the county has been harvested with the majority going for feed wheat. Some straw is still being baled. Sweet corn is being harvested in the county.

Peaches are being harvested in the county with a good crop being reported. Plums and apricots are being harvested. Apples are looking good and apples are sizing up nicely.

Adams County is still dry and could use some additional rainfall to keep the crops going; but the crops are fairing well for the year we have been having so far.

ADAMS COUNTY, Thomas Kerr - - Some of the fruit areas in the northern part of the county have experienced some hail and wind damage this week while others received little or no damage. Wheat and oat harvest were a challenge but all of the wheat has now been harvested. Hay making was better at the end of the week with some excellent hay being made now. The hot weather was not as long lasting as feared, so corn is going to be ok. Beans are excellent.

CAMBRIA COUNTY, Dolly Little (FSA) - - It was a hot and humid week. We had a five day stretch with no rain. The potatoes are looking excellent, with reports of over 10 nice-sized potatoes to a stalk. Some growers are anticipating the harvest will begin earlier than usual.

CENTRE COUNTY, Dick Decker - - It was a good week for field work. There were some showers, with a total of ½ inch in my gauge. Wheat harvest is almost complete. Crops look good overall.

COLUMBIA COUNTY, Dan McCarty (NRCS) - - Overall, crops look very good.

COLUMBIA COUNTY, John O Yocum - - It was getting dry, but the 0.75 inch of rain on Saturday improved soil moisture.

LANCASTER COUNTY, Burell Whitworth (NRCS) - - Some parts of Lancaster County had hail and high winds. At the present time there seems to be no significant damage to crops. Crops are doing well, except where insect damage is happening on alfalfa and corn. This has been a good growing season for Graziers so far.

MONTGOMERY COUNTY, Andrew Frankenfield (EXT) - - There was more rain this week. Severe storms damaged some crops and took out power on Tuesday night. We had more heavy thunderstorms Friday night and Saturday. Crops look very good. Wheat has been completed and oats are nearly done. There have been reports of 10-20% sprouts on some wheat.

SCHUYLKILL COUNTY, Terry Stehr (FSA) - - Showers this past weekend left from 1 to 4 inches of moisture throughout the county. Heat and moisture are creating ideal disease conditions for fruit and vegetable growers. While forage crops are growing rapidly, the window for making quality hay is very small. Corn and beans that are planted on higher ground are progressing nicely.

SNYDER COUNTY, William C. Sheaffer - - The fields began to dry out with the very hot and humid conditions that prevailed during the major part of the week; then on Friday night and Saturday, the rains returned. A significant amount of hay was made, grain was harvested, and straw was baled. The corn and soybeans made great strides in the growth process; corn has tasseled and the soybeans have begun to flower. Reports of severe grain sprouting with the wheat crop; otherwise the crop was good. The oat crop is yielding very high; especially the early seeded crop. The main activities for the week were haymaking, harvesting grain, spreading manure, and baling straw.

TIOGA COUNTY, Pamela Barnes - - Good hay weather the first of the week. Thursday night, into early Friday morning we saw 2.5 inches of rain. Then there was another 1 inch on Saturday morning, with showers the rest of the weekend. The corn is pushing tassels and is looking great for the most part.

UNION COUNTY, James Brubaker - - We had almost enough moisture to take the corn crop to over 5 feet last week. The recent heat has really pushed crops along.

WASHINGTON COUNTY, Jonathan Bedillion - - We had a fair week for hay making despite high humidity levels.

WESTMORELAND COUNTY, John Lohr (FSA) - - Rain at the end of the week was much needed to provide relief from the dry, hot conditions. The early week's dry period provided an excellent harvest opportunity. Early-planted oats are ripe and some has been harvested.

PA Crop Progress for Week Ending July 23, 2006

Crop	Current Week	Last Year	5-Year Average
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Corn, silk	62	60	44
Corn, dough	6	6	7
Corn average height, inches	77	76	64
Barley, harvested	96	98	95
Wheat, harvested	95	87	81
Oats, turning yellow	82	78	66
Oats, ripe	39	40	39
Oats, harvested	21	12	16
Alfalfa, 2nd cutting	78	86	71
Alfalfa, 3rd cutting	9	21	18
Timothy clover, 1st cutting	94	99	92
Timothy clover, 2nd cutting	27	43	23
Peaches, harvested	18	25	26
Apples, harvested	7	4	4

PA Crop Condition for Week Ending July 23, 2006

Crop	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Corn	1	2	12	41	44
Oats	0	2	13	71	14
Soybeans	0	1	15	51	33
Timothy clover stand	0	1	28	63	8
Quality of hay made	1	8	31	51	9
Pasture	3	8	27	55	7
Peaches	0	3	20	49	28
Apples	0	0	6	60	34

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